Inflight telephone facility in Indian Airlines an dAir India

356. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Airways have introduced an inflight telephone service in their Boeing-747 flights;

(b) whether such inflight telephones are also available on some airlines in U.S.A.; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to introduce similar service in Air India and Indian Airlines for the convenience of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) It is understood that the British Airways are in the process of installing telephones in some of their Jumbo aircraft on a trial basis. This facility would enable the passengers to make calls while on board the aircraft. The factural details are, however, not known to the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No. Sir.

Introduction of Professor's Grade in Delhi Colleges

357. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the demand of the Delhi University teachers for introducing Professor's grade in the consultant colleges;

(b) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in the matter;

(c) what are the difficulties in expediting a decision on this demand;

(d) whether Government propose to accept the above demand; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (e) The demand of DUTA for institution of a Professor's Grade in Colleges is a major departure from the pattern of staffing presently obtaining throughout the country. Institution of such a Grade only in Colleges in Delhi would generate a demand for instituting similar grades in Colleges throughout the country. The University Grants Commission has, therefore, referred the matter to the R. C. Mehotra Committee which is looking into the pay scales of teachers in University and colleges and their avenues of promotion.

Hike in accompanied luggage charges

358. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHR SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accompanies luggage charges for the passengers have been raised by the railways recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and since when the new charges have become effective; and

(c) what are the reasons for increasing the rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RALWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The basic rate for accompanied luggage has not been raised. However, with effect from 1-2-1986, the penalty charges and minimum charges on unbooked or partially booked luggage have been increased as under:

(1) When a passenger is detected with unbooked or partially booked luggage than the free allowance but within the marginal allowance, he will be charged for the weight in excess of the free allowance subject to a minimum of Rs. 50.